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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The strength of the permanent cadres of the Hungarian Army has been strengthened since 1949. An indicative factor is the infantry officers' school at Pécs, which has been graduating 2,000 every year since 1950. This means 6,000 new officers for the infantry alone, which arm constitutes about half of the current army.
2. The Hungarian People's Army, with three years under the colors, has about 200,000 effectives, with a permanent body of officers and noncommissioned officers numbering about 20,000, about half of whom should belong to the infantry.
3. There is, however, a current shortage of 4,000 in the permanent cadres of the infantry, and it is probably the same in the other arms. At the current tempo of officer training it will take about two years to close the gap.
4. It should be noted that the noncommissioned officer question is not a dominating one, since both junior officers and noncommissioned officers go through the same training, and are taken from the same elements of the population.
5. The Hungarian Army can be maintained only on a basis of three-year service. This service causes a noticeable drop in industrial production, but there have as yet been no very violent protests from industry. There are indications that the service period may be lengthened beyond three years.
6. Refresher training on Russian weapons has been given to the youngest classes who were trained during the war; that is, the classes 1921-1923. Short courses, amounting to refresher training, have been given to the classes which as a result of the events following 1945 never had any regular training; that is, the classes 1924-1927. This gives the Hungarian Army about ten years of classes trained on Russian weapons and schooled in Communist ideology.

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7. Soviet advisers are in all central offices of the Hungarian Army, divisional commands, and training centers. In political and diplomatic matters the Soviet military mission is under the ambassador, but in all military questions under the Army Group Command.
8. The Hungarian Border Guard is a police group, militarily organized, which in time of peace is controlled by the Civilian Political Police (A H). Its recruiting, armament and equipment belongs to the Honved Ministry and the district commands. In case of war, the Border Guard would have charge of the defense of the frontiers, and its units would fall under control of the local military command.
9. There are no real fortifications along the borders. The barbed wire and mine fields on the western and southern borders are less for military purposes than to control illegal border crossing. In case of an alarm, the Border Guards would make use of somewhat defensible points, little more than trenches. The Russian, Czech and Rumanian borders are wired only in the main traffic areas.
10. The Hungarian Air Force is being trained to close cooperation with ground troops.
11. There is a chemical battalion, but it is trained only in defense against gas warfare.

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